

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 40-45 were objected to. Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 10, 11, 25, 26, 28, 29, 31 and 32 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Selner. Claims 34 and 35 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Selner and further in view of Grim. Claims 37, 38, 40, 41, 43, 44, 46 and 47 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Selner and further in view of Huang. Claims 3, 9, 12-24, 27, 30 and 33 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Selner in view of Donzis. Claim 36 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Selner in view of Donzis and further in view of Grim. Claims 39, 42, 45 and 48 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Selner in view of Donzis and further in view of Huang.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made".

The base portion of U.S. Patent No. 4,187,620 to Selner is not an air cushion structure but a pad. See Figures 2, 3 and 4. Selner discloses that the pad is provided by springs 34 for shock absorption. Also, the patent does not teach a base portion having lateral side walls. This patent fails to disclose an air cushion

providing the function of distributing shock forces delivered to the side walls of an air cushion.

The Selner patent is composed of a film-made cushion without teaching the concept of a three dimensional structural air cushion. The Selner patent again fails to disclose an air cushion providing the function of distributing shock forces delivered to the sidewall.

Further, Figure 3 clearly shows the lack of sidewall cushioning as well as lack of an upper surface and a lower surface bounding an interior space to disclose the air cushion of the present invention. See Figure 10 of the application, for example.

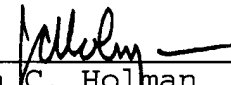
None of the other cited patents disclose the concept of converting shock energy into support energy as is done in the captioned application. Please refer to page 2, lines 15-16 of the specification.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, patentably distinguish over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and are, therefore, in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOBSON HOLMAN, PLLC

By:  _____
John C. Holman
Reg. No. 22,769

400 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-2201
(202) 638-6666

Date: July 15, 2003
JLS/dmt

Serial No. : 09/868,908
Atty. Docketing No. : P60998US0

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-3 and 40-45 as follows:

1. (Amended) A three dimensional air cushion comprising:

at least one air chamber having a sealed peripheral edge, said at least one air chamber having a sealed peripheral edge, said at least one air chamber including a base portion and ~~two opposed~~ at least one lateral ~~sides~~ side located on ~~opposite sides~~ a side of and extending from the base portion to form a substantially concave structure, the base portion and the ~~two~~ at least one lateral ~~sides~~ ~~being formed between~~ side including an upper surface ~~layer~~ and a lower surface ~~layer~~ bounding an interior space, said ~~two opposed~~ at least one lateral ~~sides~~ side projecting above a plane ~~occupied by~~ containing said base portion to form an elevated ~~sidewalls~~ sidewall of the air cushion and forming a substantially U-shape with the base portion for distributing shock forces delivered to the ~~sidewalls~~ side wall.

2. (Amended) A three dimensional air cushion comprising:

at least one air chamber having a sealed peripheral edge, said at least one air chamber including a base portion and two opposed substantially vertical lateral sides located on opposite

sides of the base portion to form a concave structure, the base portion and the two lateral sides ~~being formed between~~ including an upper surface ~~layer~~ and a lower surface ~~layer~~ bounding an interior space, said two opposed lateral sides projecting above a plane occupied by said base portion to form elevated sidewalls of the air cushion and forming a U-shape with the base portion for distributing shock forces delivered to the sidewalls, and

an inner surface area of said air cushion defined by said upper surface ~~layer~~ being smaller than an outer surface area of said air cushion defined by said lower surface ~~layer~~.

3. (Amended) A three dimensional air cushion comprising:

at least ~~two~~ one air chambers ~~communicating with each other chamber having a sealed peripheral edge~~, said at least ~~two~~ one air chambers chamber including a base portion and ~~two opposed substantially vertical~~ at least one lateral sides side located on ~~opposite sides~~ and extending from at least one side of the base portion to form a substantially concave structure, the base portion and the ~~two lateral sides being formed between~~ side including an upper surface ~~layer~~ and a lower surface ~~layer~~ bounding an interior space, said ~~two opposed~~ at least one lateral ~~sides~~ side projecting above a plane ~~occupied by~~ containing said base portion to form an elevated ~~sidewalls~~ sidewall of the air cushion and forming a

substantially U-shape with the base portion for distributing shock forces delivered to the ~~sidewalls~~ sidewall; and

at least one recess extending from at least ~~either one of~~ one of said upper surface ~~layer or~~ and said lower surface ~~layer~~ and separating portions of said air ~~chambers~~ chamber.

40. (Amended) The three dimensional air cushion as claimed in claim 28, wherein said air chamber is filled with a semi-liquid fluid.

41. (Amended) The three dimensional air cushion as claimed in claim 29, wherein said air chamber is filled with a semi-liquid fluid.

42. (Amended) The three dimensional air cushion as claimed in claim 30, wherein said air chambers are filled with a semi-liquid fluid.

43. (Amended) The three dimensional air cushion as claimed in claim 28, wherein said air chamber is filled with a foam material.

44. (Amended) The three dimensional air cushion as claimed in claim 29, wherein said air chamber is filled with a foam material.

45. (Amended) The three dimensional air cushion as claimed in claim 30, wherein said air chambers are filled with a foam material.